

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are all the claims pending in the application and are subject to rejection. Claims 1-6 have been amended for purposes of clarity and new claims 7-16 have been added. Support for new claims 7-16 can be found, for example, at pages 4-6 and 10-11 of the present specification.

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, it is noted that priority has not been claimed in the present application.

I. Objection to specification and drawings

The Examiner has objected to the specification and the drawings filed on March 16, 2001.

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that Figure 3 should be designated by a legend, such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated.

Figure 3 is directed to a configuration of an apparatus used in electric discharge surface treatment in, for example, JPA 9-192937, and therefore, has been labeled as --Prior Art--.

In addition, at pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has set forth guidelines for the preferred layout for the specification. The Examiner will note that Applicants have amended the specification accordingly.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing objections are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On pages 3-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohoshi (U.S. Patent No. 6,024,622) in view of Iwasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,525,461).

Applicants respectfully respond as follows.

The present invention is directed to an electrode for electric discharge surface treatment comprising a compressed mixture of at least a powder of metal carbide and a powder of metal hydride (claims 1 and 7). The present invention is also directed to a method of making the electrode of the present invention (claim 4) and a method for discharge surface treating a work (claim 10).

Ohoshi relates to a method of manufacturing a field emission type emitter. Basically, Ohoshi discloses various sputtering and etching steps to form a field emission type emitter. The Examiner cites various sections of Ohoshi; however, the disclosure is not relevant to the present invention.

Simply put, Ohoshi does not relate to electric discharge surface treatment or electrodes used therein. In addition, Ohoshi does not disclose a mixture of powders, particularly powders of a metal carbide and a powder of metal hydride.

Similarly, Iwasaki relates to a process for producing a narrow titanium-containing wire, which can be used in photoelectric transducers, photo-catalytic devices, electron-emitting materials, narrow wires for micromachines, narrow wires for quantum effect devices, and the like. *See* col. 1, lines 16-20.

Therefore, Iwasaki also does not relate to electric discharge surface treatment or electrodes used therein.

In addition, although Iwasaki discloses "titanium hydride" and "titanium carbide" at col. 5, lines 22-32, the entire disclosure is directed to narrow titanium-

containing wires. Accordingly, Iwaskai does not disclose the use of powders of titanium hydride or titanium carbide or a mixture of powders, as required in the present invention.

In short, the applied prior art is not relevant to the present claims.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is respectfully requested.

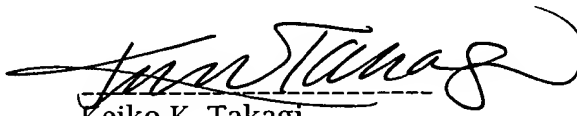
III. Conclusion

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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